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Version of Interrogation given to Warren Commission By Mexican Government

On November 23, 1963, one day after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Headquarters suggested to Mexican officials that they arrest Sylvia Triado De Duran. (Mexi 7029 to ~~Mexican officials~~ <sup>the DIRECTOR</sup>, Nov. 23, 1963; Note to Luis Echevarria, November 23, 1963) Mexico City ~~Headquarters~~ <sup>STATION</sup> asked that Sylvia Triado de Duran be held incommunicado until she gave the Mexican officials all <sup>the known about</sup> ~~(the information)~~ <sup>Lee Harvey Oswald.</sup>

The Mexican government ~~decided to arrest~~ <sup>ARRESTED</sup> Sylvia Triado de Duran on the same day. Captain Fernando Gutierrez Baines, Assistant Director of the Federal Security Police interrogated her at 6:00 p.m. that evening. (C.E. 2121, p. 35). [Ms. Duran stated that she ~~became the temporary~~ <sup>became the temporary</sup> ~~occupy the position of~~ <sup>Secretary to the Consul</sup> three months prior to the assassination of John F. Kennedy ~~as a result of~~ <sup>due to</sup> the death of Maximiliano Oliveri, who had been occupying ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> position]. (ibid p. 37)

She stated that in late September or early October of 1963, a North American, by the name of Lee Harvey Oswald, <sup>appeared at the Cuban Consulate and</sup> applied for <sup>an</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>interim</sup> visa to Russia <sup>BY WAY OF</sup> ~~through~~ <sup>(ibid p. 39)</sup> Cuba. [Oswald presented evidence that he had been in Russia for three years], that he was married to a Russian woman and also that he was <sup>the leader</sup> ~~secretary~~ of an organization in New Orleans called "Fair Play for Cuba". [Oswald stressed to Sylvia Duran

Central Intelligence Agency  
has no Objection to Release  
Date AS SANITIZED  
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( that his visa application should be accepted as he was a friend  
 of the Cuban Revolution. <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup> Sylvia Duran stated that then, in compliance  
 with her duties, she <sup>had Oswald</sup> filled out the appropriate application. <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup> Oswald  
 then left and returned in the afternoon with the necessary  
 photographs. <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup> Ms. Duran stated that at that time, exceeding her  
 duties, she telephoned the Russian Consulate because of her interest  
 in facilitating the handling of the Russian visa for Lee Harvey Oswald. <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup>  
 The Russian Embassy <sup>told</sup> answered her that there <sup>would be a delay of</sup> ~~was a delay of~~  
 approximately four months in processing the case, which annoyed Lee  
 Harvey Oswald since, according to his statements, he was in a great  
 hurry to obtain visas to travel to Russia. He insisted on his right  
 to do <sup>so</sup> in view of his background, <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup> loyalty and his activities on  
 behalf of the Cuban movement. <sup>(id. p. 39)</sup> When Oswald understood  
 that it was not possible to give him a Cuban visa without ~~his~~ previously  
 obtaining a Russian visa, he became extremely angry. <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup> At this point, Ms.  
 Duran stated, <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup> she called Consul Agnew, who, at that time was in his  
 private office [accompanied by his <sup>young</sup> ~~replacement~~ <sup>ultimate</sup> Alfredo Mirabal]. <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup> Mr. Agnew came  
 out of his office and argued with Oswald in English. <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup> ~~They argued and~~  
 [Mr. Agnew told <sup>Oswald</sup> ~~him~~ that a person like him, instead of aiding the Cuban  
 Revolution, did it harm.] <sup>(id. p. 40)</sup> Oswald at that point stated that ~~there was too~~ <sup>he had too</sup>

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( reasons for requesting his visa with urgency: one, that his <sup>Mexican</sup> permit ~~to~~ expired soon; and two, that ~~it was urgent that he reach Russia.~~ <sup>he needed to reach Russia soon</sup> <sup>(ibid p. 4)</sup> Mrs. Duran stated that in spite of the argument she gave Oswald a piece of paper with her name and <sup>Consulate</sup> ~~business~~ phone number on it. <sup>(11-28-47)</sup> (ibid p. 4) [she also initiated the handling of his visa application by sending it to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign <sup>Relations</sup>, from which a reply was received in the normal manner some fifteen to thirty days later approving the issuance of <sup>AN INTERPASSIT</sup> ~~a visa~~, <sup>on the condition that he</sup> ~~but conditioning it on his previously obtaining a Russian~~ <sup>passport</sup> (visa).] (ibid p. 4) Mrs. Duran stated that she does not recall whether Oswald subsequently called her on the Consulate phone number which she had given him] (ibid p. 4) [Sylvia Duran stated that all the conversations that she and Enrique Aguirre had with Oswald were in the English language since Oswald did not speak any Spanish] (ibid p. 4) [Finally, she stated that upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's photograph in the newspaper, she immediately recognized and identified it as being the same person but she remembered as Lee Harvey Oswald.] <sup>(ibid p. 4)</sup>

~~Sylvia Duran was released Nov. 24, 1963 and rearrested Nov. 26, 1963. when the Mexican government found that Sylvia was attempting to leave Mexico for Havana (Cable from Ambassador to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mexi 7104, CIA # 482; Cable from <sup>Mexican</sup> ~~Agcy~~ Station to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mexi 7101, CIA # 493) During the interrogation she remembered Oswald perfectly and denied he wore ~~any~~ glasses. (Cable from Mexico~~

Original Signed Statement of Sylvia Duran Interrogation by Mexican Government

Sylvia Duran was arrested on Nov 23 and interrogated at 6:00 p.m. (see previous section) At that time her pertinent statements about the assassination and Lee Harvey Oswald were written down by the Mexican government and Sylvia signed the statement. They <sup>separately</sup> Upon learning about the assassination she and her husband speculated that Kennedy may have been assassinated for racial reasons. When she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was the same man that about two months earlier had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an interim visa to Russia, having taken his name from the special documentation he presented: he was married to a Russian woman and belonged to the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee"; she checked the data in the Consulate archives and then she became certain that it was the same individual, who was blonde, short, dressed undelegantly and whose face turned red when angry. The visa was denied because, the Consul told him, that to obtain one from the Cuban government it was imperative that <sup>personally</sup> he obtain one <sup>a visa</sup> from <sup>the</sup> Soviet Consulate. Since obtaining a visa from the Soviets took four months and Oswald had to leave Mexico soon, he became excited, and <sup>she</sup> Duran had to call the Consul who had an argument with him.



( The only aid she could give Oswald was ~~se~~ advising that he go to the Soviet Consulate, and also calling the person in charge of the office. The Soviet official told her that they would have to consult Moscow, which would take four months. That afternoon, Lee ~~Harvey~~ ~~Oswald~~ returned to the Cuban Consulate and Sylvia Duran confirmed that he could only get a Cuban visa, <sup>only after</sup> ~~when~~ he received a Russian visa. She also gave Oswald her name and business phone number but never gave him her address because she had no reason to give it to him.

( She knew that phoning the <sup>Soviet</sup> Consulate was not one of her duties and that if she did so she did it only to help Oswald. She gave him her <sup>business</sup> phone number only because he would have to call subsequently to check whether he had obtained a visa. He never called back. ( Blind Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald & Sylvia Duran, November 26, 1963, CIA #473.)

Sylvia Duran was released Nov. 24, 1963. She was <sup>alleged</sup> ~~reputed~~ **NOT ALL THAT CLEAR, IS IT?** when the Mexican government <sup>alleged</sup> ~~found~~ that Sylvia was attempting to leave Mexico for Havana ( Cable from Mexico Headquarters to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mexi 7104, CIA #482; Cable from Mexican Station to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mexi 7101, CIA #493 ) During the interrogation she remembered Oswald perfectly and denied he was

( glasses ( Cable from Mexico City Station to Director, Dec. 12, 1963, Mexi 7364, CIA No. 557-558) otherwise though there was no addition to her original story (ibid)

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ON ALL THE EXPLANATIONS: "OR" THE  
MEXICAN GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE  
HAD A DIFFERENT STATEMENT, OR MORE  
EXTENSIVE NOTES.

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The following material found in the Warren Commission

Exhibit 2121 was not in the Mexican government's <sup>interrogation</sup> report of Sylvia  
Duran:

1. Mrs. Duran stated that she became the secretary to the Consul three  
months prior to the assassination of John F. Kennedy due to the death of  
Luisa Olvera, who had been occupying the position. [WCE  
W43121 p. 37]

<sup>although</sup> explanation, Mrs. Duran did not make this statement in her signed affidavit  
~~but~~ the Mexican government could easily have discerned the above because  
it actually occurred.

2. Oswald presented evidence that he had been in Russia for three years. [Exhibit p. 3]  
Explanation: Although Mrs. Duran did not state this in her signed statement  
the Mexicans could attribute it to her because it appeared on Oswald's  
embassy visa application. Insert. [See attached]

Oswald stressed to Sylvia Duran that his visa application  
should be accepted as he was a friend of the Cuban Revolution. [Exhibit p. 3]

Explanation: It is possible that after Lee Harvey Oswald stated that he  
belonged to the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee" and then signed <sup>about getting a visa</sup> that

(the Mexican government could have discerned that he had falsely  
stated that his visa application should be accepted as he was a  
friend of the Cuban Revolution.

Also, in a cable from the Mexico City Station to Headquarters on Nov. 23, Chief of Station Winston Scott writes that Echevarria told him that Sylvia Duman stated that Lee Harvey Oswald showed her a United States passport showing a long stay in USSR. [Cable Chief of Station to Headquarters, Nov. 23, 1963, Mexi 7046, CIA No. 426; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, entry no. 59, Nov. 23, 1963, CIA No. 638]



(Oswald then left and returned in the afternoon with the necessary photographs, (ibid p. 39)

Explanation: The Select Committee on Assassinations can not ~~substantiate~~ <sup>explain</sup> why this statement is attributed to Mrs. Duran if nowhere in her signed statement she mentions photographs. The only corroborating piece of information the Committee found was that Mr. Eusebio Azcue, <sup>the</sup> Cuban Consul in an interview on with the House Select Committee on Assassinations stated that Oswald did not bring a photograph on his first visit to the Cuban Consulate and thus was forced to return the following morning with one (HSCA int. Eusebio Azcue, )

Oswald insisted on his right to obtain a visa in view of his background, loyalty and his activities on behalf of the Cuban movement. (ibid p. 39)

Explanation: See number three

Mrs. Duran stated that ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> called Consul Azcue, who at that time was in his private office accompanied by his upcoming replacement Alfredo Mirabal (ibid p. 40)

(Explanation: The House Select Committee on Assassinations found no evidence of this statement. It is not in Mrs. Duran's signed statement and Mr. Eusebio Azcue in an interview on

( stated that he was alone in his office when Sylvia Duran called him to speak to Oswald. (

7. Mr. Agnew told Oswald that a person like him, instead of aiding the Cuban Revolution, did it harm. (ibid p 40)

Explanation: It is possible that the Mexican government could assume, in light of the argument between Oswald and Agnew, that Agnew would make such a statement. }

8. She also initiated the handling of his visa application by sending it to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations, from which a reply was received in the normal manner some fifteen to thirty days later, approving the issuance of a visa, on the condition that he previously obtain a Russian visa. (ibid p 40)

Explanation: Although ~~this statement~~ <sup>the above</sup> is not in Mrs. Duran's signed statement, it actually occurred and the Mexican government could have attributed the statement to her. HOW?

9. Mrs. Duran stated that she does not recall whether Oswald subsequently called her on the Consulate phone number which she ( had given him. (ibid p. 40)

Explanation: Mrs. Duran never made the above statement. In fact in her signed statement she said that she had given him

( her business phone number because he would have to call subsequently to check whether he had obtained a visa, but that he had never called back.

10. Sylvia Duran stated that all the conversations that she and Enselio Ayala had with Oswald were in the English language since Oswald did not speak any Spanish. (ibid. p 40)

Explanation: Sylvia does not state this in her signed statement. The Mexican government and the Central Intelligence Agency both had information from

[ the Kaps ] that a person who called the Soviet Embassy, allegedly Oswald, spoke Spanish in some of his conversations. (See section on Russian Embassy [tags] ) Were those LHO'S CALLS? Kaps is tell our conclusions.

11. Sylvia Duran stated that upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's photograph in the newspapers, she immediately recognized and identified it as being the same person that she remembered as Lee Harvey Oswald. (ibid)

Explanation: <sup>Begin with "In."</sup> Mrs. Duran did not <sup>they</sup> make this statement. <sup>say the above in her signed statement</sup> What she said was that when she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was the same man that about <sup>two</sup> ~~about~~ months earlier had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an

( entransit visa to Russia, having taken his name from the special documentation he presented: he was married to a Russian woman

( and belonged to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee; she checked  
 the data in the Consulate archives and then she became certain  
 that it was the same individual who was blonde, short, dressed  
 undignitly and whose face turned red when angry. ( Blind Memo re  
 Lee Harvey Oswald + Sylvia Duran; November 26, 1963, CIA # 473) ~~But in a~~  
 cable from the Mexico City Station to Headquarters on Nov 23, 1963, Chief of  
 Station Winston Scott writes that Echevarria told him that Sylvia Duran  
 stated that she had recognized Oswald on TV November 22 and had  
 told her husband, Horacio Duran, about the visits. ( Cable Chief of  
 Station to Headquarters, Nov 23, 1963, Mexi 7046, CIA No 426; Chronology of Anne  
 Hodgson, entry no 59, Nov 23, 1963, CIA No 638)

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The following material found in Sylvia Duran's signed statement never made its way to the Warren Commission's Exhibit 2121.

1. When she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was the same man that about two months earlier had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an intransit visa to Russia, having taken his name from the special documentation he presented he was married to a Russian woman and belonged to the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee"; she checked the data in the Consulate archives and then she became certain that it was the same individual, who was blonde, short, dressed unelegantly and whose face turned red when angry. (Black Memor re Lee Harvey Oswald + Sylvia Duran, 12/26/63, CIA #4)

Explanation: The statement attributed to Mrs. Duran in this interrogation report given to the Warren Commission was not the above but the following: Sylvia Duran stated that upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's photograph in the newspapers, she immediately recognized and identified

it as being the same person that she remembered as Lee Harvey Oswald. <sup>never</sup> ~~Never~~ did the Mexican govt. <sup>to the WC</sup> state that Duran had described Oswald as blonde + sh.

2. Sylvia Duran's original statement to the Mexican officials at

appears that Oswald may have had the argument with the Consul on his first visit to the Consulate and <sup>then that afternoon</sup> that later he returned

with photographs to the Consulate and acted in a more congenial manner (shil)

(Explanation: This can be explained ~~in terms of~~ <sup>by</sup> the manner the original is written. It is just statements and is not in any chronological order. (This question will be explained when we question her in Mexico City.)

3. The only aid she could give Oswald was advising him to go to the Soviet Consul. (Blind Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald & Sylvia Duran 12/26/63, CIA # 473)

Explanation: In Warren Commission exhibit 2121, received from the

(Mexican government, it appears that the Cubans flatly rejected Oswald's visa application and never offered him any advice.

4. Although not in Mrs. Duran's <sup>signed</sup> statement <sup>as in WC 2121</sup>, in a <sup>cable</sup> ~~memo~~ disseminated to the FBI, State Department and the White House, Headquarters quoted from the Mexican police report of Duran's interrogation: "The Consul then spoke by telephone to the person in charge of that office, and was informed that the case would have to be referred to Moscow and that there would be a four month

(delay. (Cable Headquarters to <sup>FBI</sup> ~~State~~ <sup>State</sup> White House, <sup>p. 23, 1963,</sup> DIR 85758.) The message above was verified by an interview <sup>of Ensis Aguirre</sup> conducted by the HSCA

on \_\_\_\_\_ in Cuba. (Interview of Ensis Aguirre.)

Lie

Sylvia Duman stated that Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate on only two occasions. She stated that the first visit occurred on the morning of a day in either late September or early October. The second visit occurred on the afternoon of the same date. The House Select Committee on Assassinations has determined that <sup>OSWALD VISITED</sup> ~~these two~~ <sup>THE CUBAN CONSULATE TWICE</sup> ~~visits occurred~~ on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1963. <sup>X (Possibly 1 ON 26 + 1 ON 27?)</sup> A phone call from Sylvia Duman to the Soviet Embassy at 4:05 p.m. that afternoon appears in the transcripts [the electronic surveillance] of the Soviet Embassy, in which she discussed

Oswald's case with a Soviet official who asks her phone number to call her back. (Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA Documents, 3/9/78, pp. 6-7, CIA Nos. 320-321; Cable from Mexico City to the Director, 11/23/63, MEX 7025, CIA Nos. 218-219; CIA Transcript from Russian Embassy, 9/23/63, CIA No. 27) At 4:26 p.m. an unidentified Soviet Consulate official called Sylvia Duman inquiring whether the American citizen had been to the Cuban Consulate office. Sylvia responded affirmatively, responding that the American was at the office at that time. (Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA Documents, 3/9/78, pp. 7-10, CIA Nos. 321-324; Cable from Mexico City to the Director, 11/23/63, MEX 7025, CIA Nos. 219-221; CIA Transcript from Russian Embassy, 9/23/63, CIA No. 30) In addition the visa application is dated September 27<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Eusebio Ayala in an interview on <sup>the</sup> with the House Select Committee

on Assassination's stated that he recalled <sup>that</sup> Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate AT LEAST ONCE ON THE DAY THE APPLICATION WAS DATED, the ~~on the~~ 27<sup>th</sup> of September. (

The House Select Committee on Assassinations has also found evidence that shows that Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate not ~~two times~~ <sup>three</sup> ~~as Sylvia Duran stated~~ but three times. A phone call from Sylvia Duran to the Soviet Embassy at 11:51 a.m. on Saturday Sept. 28, 1963 appears in the transcripts.

[of the electronic surveillance] of the Soviet Consulate. <sup>Ms. Duran also</sup> ~~states~~ <sup>that</sup> there was an American citizen at the Cuban Consulate who had previously visited the Soviet Consulate. She subsequently put him on the line and he conversed with the Soviet official in Russian.

(Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA Documents, 3/9/78, pp 10-12, CIA Nos 324326; CIA Transcript from Russian Embassy, 9/28/63, CIA No. 25).



Central Intelligence Agency Cables Re Duran

MCS

On November 23, 1963, <sup>①</sup> The Central Intelligence Agency sent a note to Luis Echevarria requesting that he arrest Sylvia Isabel de Duran. The agency stated that she was a Mexican citizen who had got Oswald in touch with the Soviet Embassy. They gave Echevarria a <sup>note</sup> ~~letter~~ with Duran's address, her mother's address, her brother's address, her business address, her home phone number and her place of work. The Central Intelligence Agency also suggested that Duran be held incommunicado until she <sup>could</sup> ~~was~~ be questioned on the matter. (Note to Luis Echevarria to arrest Sylvia Duran, November 23, 1963, MCS)

CIA No. 444; Cable re Oswald, Duran, Mex 7029, November 23, 1963, CIA No. 44. Chronology prepared by Anne Hordfastine, Ux 7241, entry 36, November 23, 1963, CIA No. 635

③ On the same day the Chief of Station, Winston Scott, received a phone call from [Jack Whitten] in Washington Langley Headquarters asking that Sylvia Duran not be arrested. Winston Scott told [Jack Whitten] that it was too late, that he could not recall <sup>the</sup> request and that she [Whitten] should already have received a cable which stated that Echevarria had already been told to arrest Sylvia, as a Mexican initiative.

(Note written by Chief of Station re phone call with [Jack Whitten,] Nov 23, 1963; Chronology prepared by Anne Hordfastine, Ux 7241, entry 37, CIA No. 635) <sup>Nov 23,</sup>

③ ~~Letter, on Nov 23, 1963~~, Winston Scott telephoned Luis Echevarria and stated that we would hope that her arrest would be kept absolutely secret, that no information from her is published or leaked, that all information from her is cabled to Washington immediately through me, and that her arrest and statements not spread to any leftist groups. (Chief of Station phone call to Luis Echevarria, Nov 23, 1963, CIA no.

Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, entry 46, November 23, 1963, CIA No. 636; Flash Cable from Kermisland to Mexico City Station, NOV. 23, 1963, D.C. 84906, CIA No. 433]

The Central Intelligence Agency's interest in Sylvia Duran is readily apparent. First, hoping to acquire information on Lee Harvey Oswald from Sylvia Duran, they ask the Mexican government to arrest her. [Then, possibly fearing that Sylvia Duran's arrest might become public knowledge, thus endangering the Mexican headquarters, then [Washington headquarters], then [Jack Whitten] asked Mexican City not to press for Sylvia Duran's arrest. When Washington headquarters explained that the request had already gone out, headquarters then pressed for "absolute secrecy" from the Mexican government.

④ Also on November 23, 1963, Echevarria called the Mexico chief of Station Winston Scott with the first reports of the Sylvia Duran interrogation. He stated that Sylvia Duran had given a

(written statement attesting to two <sup>Oswald visits</sup> ~~visits~~ by Oswald, <sup>Sylvia stated that LHO</sup> who showed her U.S. passports depicting a long stay in the U.S.S.R. (see Sylvia <sup>Explanation can be inserted from there.</sup> Duman write-up p. 7). She also stated that she recognized Oswald on TV Nov. 22 and told her husband, Horatio Duman about the visits. (see Sylvia Duman write-up p. 9) <sup>Explanation can be inserted from there.</sup>

On November 24, 1963 in a cable from the Mexico City Station to Headquarters, which consisted of additions or amendments to what Chevarin had already told Winston Scott about Sylvia Duman's interrogation, the following was attributed to Sylvia Duman: The passport Oswald showed her <sup>Explanation can be inserted from there.</sup> was still valid (for the U.S.S.R.). (see Sylvia Duman write-up p. 7). Duman had the impression that Oswald had or believed he had made arrangements in Washington whereby instructions would be sent to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico to issue him a Soviet entry visa in a manner by which he would not have to visit the Soviet Embassy himself. (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, Nov. 24, 1978, Mexi 7054, CIA no. 423-424; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Nov. 24, 1963, entry no 71, CIA No. 641.)

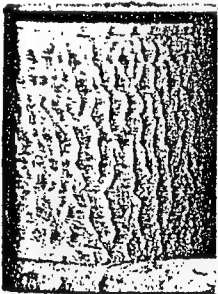
Though this statement is attributed to Sylvia Duman as early as Nov 24, 1963, it does not appear in either Sylvia Duman's signed statement nor in CE 2121 given to the Warren Commission by the Mexican government.

INFO from transcripts.

Insert

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What appears in the transcripts is that Sylvain had sent the American to the Soviet Embassy stating that his acquiring a Cuban visa was contingent on his previously acquiring a Soviet visa. He stated that the American had returned <sup>from the Soviet Embassy in Mexico</sup> and ~~stated~~ that he had been assured that there would be no problem. (Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA Documents, 7/1/78, pp 6-7, CIA Nos. 320-321; Cable from Mexico City to the Director, 11/23/63, Mexi 725, CIA Nos. 218-219; CIA Transcript from Russian Embassy, 9/27/63, CIA No. 27.)





On Nov 24, 1963, Headquarters got word about what Oswald, may have told Sylvia Duman about his future plans. A cable from Mexico City Station, Headquarters was "after analyzing all the traffic and reading the statement one important question still puzzles us. When <sup>Oswald</sup> Lee was in Mexico City in late September and early October to get a Soviet visa and a Cuban transit visa, did he want to travel to Cuba right away, alone, or with his wife join him there and then leave for Cuba, or did he plan to return to the states first and then leave later. Although it appears that he was then thinking only about a peaceful change of residence to the Soviet Union, it is also possible that he was getting documented to make a quick escape after assassinating the president. Please study your [Henry] material and give us your opinion, and also have Mexicans question

Sylvia Duman very carefully on this point. Advise (Cable from Mexico City Station, Nov 24, 1963, D/R 84920, CIA No. 412, Chemistry of Anne Beckwith Nov 24, 1963, only in 27, CIAM)

On November 25, <sup>the</sup> CIA Washington Headquarters requested a Mexico City Station cable summary of all station information on Sylvia T. Duman. They also requested that ~~[redacted]~~ be queried as to his knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald's contacts with the Cuban and Soviet Embassies. (Cable from

CIA Headquarters, Nov 25, 1963, D/R 84926, CIA No. 403; Chemistry of Anne Beckwith

(November 25, 1963, entry no. 87, CIA No 647)

The Mexico City Station replied to DIR 84926 on the same day sending the Headquarters all the information they possessed on Sylvia Duan and stating that [REDACTED] had disclaimed any knowledge of the Oswald visits. (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, Nov 25, 1963, Mexi 7065, CIA No 4; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Nov 25, 1963, entry no 88, CIA no. 647)

Not only was the Central Intelligence Agency concerned with Mrs Duan's statements but ~~so was~~ the Cuban government was <sup>also</sup> concerned. In conversation between <sup>former</sup> President Dorticos and Cuban Ambassador Joaquin Hernandez Amas, Dorticos asked Hernandez Amas if the Mexican government offered Sylvia Duan any money so that she would say that Emilio Aguirre had offered money to the American (i.e. Harvey Oswald). (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, Nov. 25, 1963, Mexi 7068, CIA No. 392; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Nov 25, 1963, entry no. 95, CIA no. 648)

In a cable dated Nov. 26, 1963, Ambassador Thorne requested that Dean Rusk, McCone and Hoover be given the following suggestions from himself, Winston Scott and Clark Anderson: In view of the report from (Alvarado Ugarte and the conversation between Dorticos and Hernandez Amas that Sylvia Duan be told that she is the only living non-Cuban who knows the full story and hence she is in the same position that

(Oswald was in view to the assassination & she should also be told that her only chance for survival is to come clean with the whole story and to cooperate completely with the Mexican government in return for Mexican government protection. They also suggest that the Mexicans request Sylvia Dusan immediately so as to eliminate the possibility of her being smuggled out of Mexico to Cuba or killed here. (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 26, 1963, Mexi 7072, CIA No. 387, Chronology of Anne Goodfature, November 26, 1963, entry no. 97, CIA no. 649.)

(On November 26, the Mexican government forwarded copies of Sylvia Dusan's signed statement to the Central Intelligence Agency (See previous section).)

On November 27, 1963, Washington CIA Headquarters asked the Mexico City Station to request the Mexican authorities to interrogate Sylvia Dusan to the extent necessary to clarify the outstanding points which had been raised in their cables the previous 48 hrs. Headquarters stated that the Mexico City Station could provide questions to the Mexican interrogators but that they wished that no Americans come in contact with Dusan. (Cable CIA Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Nov 27, 1963, Mex 85318, CIA No. 417, Chronology of Anne Goodfature Nov. 27, 1963, entry no. 121, CIA No. 653.)

( On November 27, 1963, the Chief of Station was notified by Luis Echevarria at 1215 that Sylvia Duran had been arrested because she was attempting to leave Mexico for Cuba. (Cable to Headquarters from Mexico City, November 27, 1963, Mexi 7101, CIA no. 493; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 27, 1963, entry no. 125, CIA no. 655.)

On November 27, 1963, Ambassador Mann requested the Mexico City Station to pass a cable to Secretary of State, Dean Rusk with three principal developments since the previous cable: [see p. 21 Sylvia Duran write-up]

- ( ① involving Abrahamo Ugarte and getting him against Duran
- ② arrest of Sylvia Duran
- ③ request for arrest of Eusebio Aguirre, Alfredo Muebel, Luisa Chelun and red-headed negro. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 27, 1963, Mexi 7104, CIA no. 481; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 27, 1963, entry no. 126, CIA no. 655) ]

On November 27, 1963, the Mexico City Station sent a photostatic copy of Sylvia Duran's ten page signed statement. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 27, 1963, Mexi 7105, CIA No. 479; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 27, 1963, entry no. 127, CIA no. 656.)

On November 28, 1963, the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington Headquarters sent a clarification cable to <sup>the</sup> Mexico City Station stating that they wanted to insure that neither Sylvia Duran nor the Chans got the impression that the Americans were behind her arrest.



( They stated, " we want the Mexican authorities to take the responsibility for the whole affair." (Cable from Headquarters to the Mexico City Station, November 28, 1963, CIA No. 464; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture November 28, 1963, entry no. 141, CIA No. 658) <sup>DIC 85371,</sup>

On November 28, 1963, the Mexico City Station sent a cable to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency stating that ~~[redacted]~~ <sup>[redacted]</sup> had reported on Nov. 27, 1963, that Sylvia Duman's arrest was public knowledge in the Cuban Embassy. He also reported that on November 25, 1963,

( when Duman returned to her office she seemed quite pleased with her performance. She stated that <sup>although</sup> the Mexican police had threatened her with extradition to the United States, she had no fear of confrontation.

(Cable from Mexico City Station to the Director, November 28, 1963, Mexi 7115, CIA No. 463; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 28, 1963, entry no. 154, CIA No. 662)

On November 28, 1963, the Mexico City Station sent a cable to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency stating that the press of Sylvia Duman on the Government of Mexico's initiative without consulting the Mexico City Station showed a great desire from the Mexican authorities to be of service. The cable also stated that the Mexico City Station had no alternative but to inform Echevarria that

(the Mexico City Station could make no official request for her continued detention; that the decision must be the Mexican government.

(Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 29, 1963, Mexi 7118, CIA No. 461, Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 28, 1963, entry no 156, CIA No. 662)

On November 29, 1963, Echevarria advised Chief of Station, Winston Scott, that Sylvia Duran had been released at 7:00 p.m. Mexico City time on November 28. Echevarria further stated that

(Duran is under close surveillance and will be apprehended any time they received information to warrant it. Echevarria also stated that Sylvia Duran still appeared to the Mexicans to have been involved only in the business of obtaining Cuban and Soviet visas for Oswald. (Cable from Mexico City Headquarters to Director, November 29, 1963, Mexi 7125, CIA No. 459; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 29, 1963, entry no 164, CIA No. 663)

On November 29, 1963, <sup>the CIA No. 455</sup> asked the Mexico City Station to keep them informed on the status of the interrogations of Sylvia Duran, Alberto Ugent

(and others implicated as early as possible. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Nov. 29, 1963, DIR 85672, CIA No. 457, Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 29, 1963, entry no 170, CIA No. 665)

( On November 30, 1963, Headquarters requested the Mexico City Station to relay immediately all the information they received to the F.B.I. Legal Attache in Mexico. (Cable from Headquarters to Mexico City Station, November 30, 1963, DLR 85712, CIA No. 454; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 30, 1963, entry no. 174, CIA No. 665.)

On December 12, 1963, Headquarters cabled Mexico City Station stating that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was pushing to wind up the analysis of Mexi aspects this case and urgently needs results from the interrogation of Sylvia Duran and her husband during their second arrest. Headquarters conjectured that Duran may not have been interrogated at all during her second arrest but that Mexico City should find out the facts and advise. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Dec. 12, 1963, DLR 88642, CIA No. 559; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Dec. 12, 1963, entry no. 251, CIA No. 679.)

On December 12, 1963, Mexico City Station cabled the results of the second interrogation of Sylvia Duran, to Headquarters. (See previous section, Cable from Mexico City Station to Director, December 12, 1963, Mexi 7364, CIA No. 557-8; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Dec. 12, 1963, entry no. 252, CIA No. 679.)

On December 21, 1963, Headquarters cabled Mexico that their present plan

( in passing information to the Warren Commission was to eliminate mention of [telephone taps] in order to protect their continuing operations.

The Central Intelligence Agency will rely instead on Sylvia Duran's statements and on the Soviet Consular files which the Soviets gave the State Department.

Headquarters stressed that exact, detailed information from [Standard 7 and 9] was just what Sylvia Duran and other officials said about Oswald's visits and his dealings would be valuable and usable corroborative evidence. (CIA Cable from Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Dec 21, 1963, DIR 90466, CIA No. 549; Chronology

( of Anne Gordyastine, Dec 21, 1963, entry no. 268, CIA No. 682.)

On January 2, 1964, Mexico City Station explained to Headquarters that [Standard 7 and 9] had nothing additionally to offer beyond account of Mexi 7115 (see previous section) except that <sup>she</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>had</sup> said that she WAS perfectly willing <sup>to</sup> travel to the United States to confront Oswald if necessary. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, January 2, 1964, Mexi 7615, CIA No. 545; Chronology of Anne Gordyastine of January 2, 1964, entry no. 271, CIA No. 682)

On April 7, 1964, Headquarters called the Mexico City Station that they wished alert them that three members of Warren of the Warren Commission Messrs. Willens, Slavson, and Coleman would arrive without publicity on tourist visas April 8 to confer with the Mexico City Station about the investigative action taken on the Oswald case. Headquarters also stated that the visits

purpose is to assure themselves about the 'investigations' completeness.

(Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, April 7, 1964, DIR 12633, CIA # 535 ;

Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, April 7, 1963, entry no. 319, CIA No. 698)

On April 8, 1964, Headquarters called the Mexico City Station - that the Warren Commission Staffers want to know if the Mexican government has <sup>any</sup> further written investigative reports, want clarification of many points in the F.B.I. <sup>investigator</sup> and in general want to know if all the possible steps were taken.

Headquarters called that some of the highly tricky subjects they will discuss are

whether they should talk to the Mexican officials themselves, whether they should try to talk to Sylvia Duen in Mexico at the Consulate and whether the Mexicans will let them publish what they did in the whole case. Headquarters

<sup>also</sup> further called that the Warren Commission staffers know the Central Intelligence Agency had [tag] assets and that they may have guessed from the

forensic that they had photo joints and [a piece in the Cuban Embassy]

but that they do not know the details or the Agency's arrangements

with the Mexicans. Headquarters further called that the Chief of Station

should lend them all the needed assistance with the minimum

possible disclosure of assets and techniques. (Cable Headquarters to

the Mexico City Station, April 8, 1964, DIR 13026, CIA No. 533 ; Chronology

of Anne Goodpasture, April 8, 1964, entry no. 320, CIA No. 698)

( On April 11, 1964, ~~when~~ the Warren Commission staffers requested a complete written report of the "measures taken and investigations made" by the Mexican authorities after the assassination. They promised that any portion they wished to publish in the Committee report would be cleared with the Mexican authorities prior to publication. (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, April 11, 1964, Mexi 8984, CIA No. 528; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, April 11, 1964, entry no. 333, CIA No. 700)

On May <sup>26</sup> 1964, the Mexico City Station called (to Headquarters) a copy of the official report on Sylvia Duran, as a response to the request made to Luis Echevarria, Acting Minister of Government, by the three staff members of the Warren Commission who visited Mexico in April 1964. (Dispatch to Chief of WH Division from Chief of Station at Mexico City, May 26, 1964, H.M.M.A.-25520, CIA No. 516; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, May 26, 1964, entry no. 346, CIA No. 705)

On Sept 16, 1964, <sup>in a cable from Headquarters to the Mexico City Station, Headquarters reports</sup> a member of the Warren Commission discussing Sylvia Duran's handwriting sample asked if there was information available on the current status of her morale, attitude and ~~current~~ employment. Headquarters also believed that the Warren Commission might visit Duran to verify that she completed Oswald's visa application papers. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, September 16, 1964, DIR 49619, CIA No. 623; Chronology of Anne



( Goodpasture, Sept. 16, 1964, entry no. 370, CIA No. 709.)

On Sept 16, 1964, the Warren Commission requested any substantive data which could be cited in a published report as an authoritative source of the allegations that Sylvia Duman and her husband were or are members of the Communist party. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Sept 16, 1964, DIR 49941, CIA No. 622; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Sept. 16, 1964, entry no. 371, CIA No. 709)

On Sept 18, 1964, Headquarters <sup>from the MCS</sup> inquired about the authenticity of Oswald's <sup>visa</sup> application. Headquarters also asked for other examples or blanks for comparison and possible authentication. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Sept. 18, 1964, DIR 50732, CIA No. 621; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Sept. 18, 1964, entry no. 372, CIA No. 710)

On Sept. 19, 1964, Headquarters learned that Mrs. Duman was no longer in Mexico but that her husband, Horatio, had kept up payments on rent, light bills, and seemed to live as well as ever. The source of her income was unknown. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, Sept. 19, 1964, Mexi 0930, CIA No. 619; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Sept. 19, 1964, entry no. 373, CIA No. 710)

On September 30, the Mexico City Station learned that Sylvia  
Duman had been on an excursion with some students to Isla Mujeres  
and Merida. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, October 5, 1964, Message 1120,  
CIA No. 598; Chronology of Anne Hockaday, Oct 5, 1964, entry no. 393, CIA No. 598)